

# PROVIDE AN EXTRA \$5,000,000. FOR ROADS

An extra \$1,000,000 for highway outlays has been authorized by the provincial government in a special warrant passed recently according to information received by the Alberta Motor Association.

The extra funds will be used to supplement the \$13,500,000 appropriation for highway and bridge improvements authorized by the legislature at its last session.

While the entire amount of the extra funds may not be used, they are

required to cover costs of contracts already issued or contemplated in connection with the construction program.

The first session of the new legislature will be called upon to give approval to special warrants issued in the interval.

Meantime, steady progress is reported in provincial road work. There are 27 grading projects under way in addition to 10 graveling and 9 asphaltic surfacing jobs. All are main projects in different parts of the province.

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## Lethbridge Experimental Station Weekly Letter

### POTATOES AS A LIVESTOCK FEED.

Each year there is a considerable tonnage of small and off-grade (and occasionally surplus) potatoes unsuitable for sale that can be disposed of profitably through livestock feeding. However, if potatoes are to be a profitable feed one must realize their limitations and exercise a certain amount of care in their feeding. Potatoes are approximately 80 per cent water and therefore are some-

what similar to an ensilage. They are lower in protein, essential minerals, and vitamins than are most of the commonly used feeds. For this reason potatoes should be fed in conjunction with high quality feeds such as legume hays and grain, or protein mineral supplements should be added to the ration. Potatoes are sometimes unpalatable until livestock become accustomed to them and therefore they should be introduced into the ration slowly.

Potatoes that are stored under conditions favorable for keeping can be fed raw to sheep and cattle but should be cooked for pigs. If the potatoes have sprouted the sprouts should be knocked off before feeding as these are often poisonous to livestock. Sunburned, frozen, or decayed potatoes should not be fed to any class of stock. All potatoes should be sliced or pulverized, before feeding to avoid the danger of choking.

If large quantities of potatoes are available for feeding it is advisable to ensilage them. A pit or trench silo is preferred to a tower silo. Potatoes may be ensiled alone, but the resulting silage is usually very sloppy and often unpalatable. It is usually wiser to mix one part dry roughage, such as hay, straw or corn stover with every four parts of potatoes before ensiling.

Potato silage has a feeding value similar to corn silage when fed to sheep and cattle. Four to five lbs. of raw potatoes, when fed in a well balanced ration, have a feeding value equivalent to approximately one pound of grain while dried potatoes have a feeding value equivalent to most grains, pound for pound.

When fed to milking cows, potatoes should be fed after milking and never just before milking so as to avoid doff-flavors in the milk. Fattening cattle or dairy cows should not be fed more than 20 to 30 pounds of potatoes per head daily. Pigs may be fed up to 6 pounds per head daily depending on the size of the pig. If too large amounts are fed severe scouring may result.

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